MARVEL LEGACY

KINGPINS OF NEW YORK

7

DAREDEVIL • LUKE CAGE • JESSICA JONES • IRON FIST

THE DEFENDERS™

BENDIS
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THE DEFENDERS

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VC's CORY PETIT

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WHAT IS THIS???

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DEFENDERS

SORRY, NO BUT, I JUST WANTED YOU TO TURN THE PAGE.

YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE AUDIENCE ON THEIR TOES...

SEE, WE WERE TOLD TO ***REALLY*** BRING THE THUNDER FOR THE LEGACY STUFF.

I GUESS ***I'M*** THE THUNDER!

BUT WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THE THUNDER WAS STORY CRAFT?

HMMM?

I MEAN, THE KIDS WORK ***REALLY*** HARD ON THESE THINGS.

AS YOU'LL SEE ON THE NEXT PAGE, *DEFENDERS* IS ***REALLY*** SOMETHING. BLOOD, VIOLENCE, SEX, CAMEOS...

OKAY, ANYWAY...

REALLY. THEY SIT ALONE IN THEIR BASEMENTS, SOMETIMES ***ALL DAY*** EVERY DAY, WITH NOTHING BUT EMPTY CARBS, TERRY GROSS AND THE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY TO THE ORIGINAL *BLADE RUNNER* LASERDISC TO KEEP THEM COMPANY.

I HEAR I KISS SOMEONE BY THE ISSUE'S END...

(IT'S THE PUNISHER.)

BEARD BURN BE DAMNED!

ALL THE WHILE YOU'LL BE WONDERING-- IS THIS EXCESSIVE RECAP JOKE COMING OUT OF YOUR PAGE COUNT?

IT ISN'T. CALM DOWN, 4CHAN. IT'S JUST FOR FUN. REMEMBER FUN?

FUN!

LIKE WHEN ***SANFORD AND SON*** WENT TO HAWAII AND THEY ACCIDENTALLY SWITCHED BRIEFCASES WITH ONE FULL OF DIAMONDS?

OR IN THIRD GRADE WHEN I LEGITIMATELY LOST MY UNDERWEAR! REMEMBER THAT? ***NO?*** WELL, HOW ***WOULD*** YOU?!

HEY! REMEMBER ***ELEKTRA NATCHIOS?*** NOT THE ONE FROM THE MOVIE, THE ONE FROM THE REAL-LIFE COMICS.

ELEKTRA! ***ELEKTRA, ASSASSIN!*** (WAAAAY AHEAD OF ITS TIME?) NO?

WELL, ***SHE*** WAS MYSTERIOUSLY SNOOPING AROUND ***HEROES FOR HIRE...***

LET'S FIND OUT WHY...

(DAMN, I SHOULDA BROUGHT SNO-CAPS.)

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ACTUALLY DAREDEVIL?

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with PAUL MOUNTS
Wizards

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT
(DO YOU THINK HE regrets HIS career choices RIGHT NOW?)

COVER ARTISTS
DAVID MARQUEZ & JUSTIN PONSOR
BUT THE REAL COVER IS THE FRIENDS WE MADE ALONG THE WAY

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HI, ELEKTRA, I'M DANNY.
BUT YOU CAN CALL ME THE IMMORTAL IRON FIST IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE INTIMIDATED AND LESS LIKELY TO STAB ME WITH YOUR STABBERS.

HELLO, MR. RAND.
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
MANY TIMES.
I THOUGHT SO.
HAVE WE FOUGHT EACH OTHER?
SURPRISINGLY, NO.
THAT IS SURPRISING.
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO DESIRE TO FIGHT YOU.
OH!
OH OH OH!
I REALLY WISH YOU WOULD HAVE LEFT A NOTE THAT SAID THAT BACK IN MY OFFICE THAT YOU BROKE INTO.
YOU ARE A LEGENDARY FIGHTER AND I RESPECT YOU IMMENSELY.
THEN TELL ME WHY YOU BROKE INTO MY OFFICE...
...AND THEN DEDICATE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO HELPING OTHERS.
FAREWELL, MR. RAND.

OH, NO!
THIS IS NOT HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO--

REALLY?
YOU COULDN'T HELP?
NO.
I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING--OW--OUT OF HER.
I KNOW.
THAT REALLY HURT.
I KNOW.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?
COLLEGE GIRLFRIEND.
HA!
"YOU KNOW WHAT I FIND MOST OF THE TIME?"
OH...

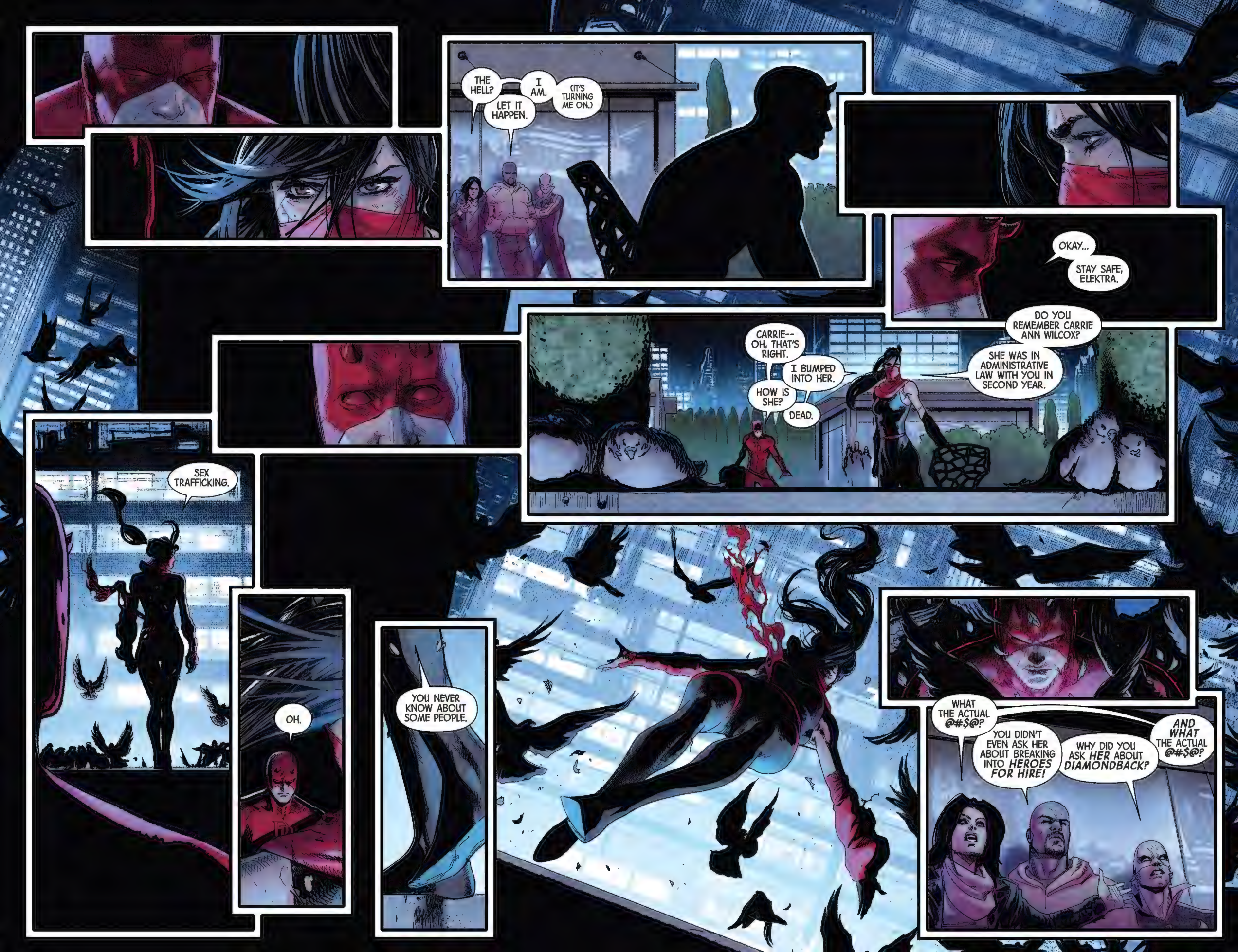
EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE IT AT FIRST LOOK, EVERYTHING TURNS OUT TO BE A BLESSIN' IN DISGUISE.
YOUR MOUTH TO GOD'S EARS, SISTER.
A PROPERTY LIKE THIS, MISTER STRYKER--SO LUCKY!
YOUR UNCLE DIES, IT IS SAD, BUT HE LEFT YOU A REAL TREASURE.
IT'S JUST BEGGING FOR REINVENTION. BEGGING.
I KNOW SOME PEOPLE--WE CAN BRING IT BACK TO ITS GLORY DAYS.
CLOSED FOR REPAIRS
FIRST OF ALL, DJs ARE OUT. LIVE MUSIC IS WHERE IT'S AT.
LIKE JAZZ?
I WISH. ACTUALLY, CABARET IS MAKING A BIG COMEBACK--
CAN I HELP YOU?
CLUB'S CLOSED.
I, UM, I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WAS YOUR CLUB.
THAT YOUR DEAD UNCLE HAMMER--
(OH, I THINK I GET IT NOW.)

REALLY?! THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO GO?
DIAMONDBACK'S JUST GONNA WALK RIGHT IN OFF THE STREET?
FIRST YA TRY TO WHACK THE BLACK CAT, YA BLEW IT, AND NOW YA JUST WALK RIGHT IN HERE?
THERE'S A HISTORY HERE, ACTUALLY.
BEFORE BLACK CAT OWNED IT, THIS USED TO BE CALLED THE EXCELSIOR CLUB AND USED TO BELONG TO CAESAR "BIG C" CICERO.
HEAD OF THE MAGGIA.
BUSTER, I WAS THE MAGGIA.
I REMEMBER YOU BACK IN THE DAY, HAMMERHEAD.
YOU WERE GLORIFIED MUSCLE. A BAGMAN WITH A GIMMICK.
SAME AS YA ARE NOW.
EXCEPT NOW YOU'RE STUCK IN THIS WEIRD PSYCHOSEXUAL THING WITH THE BLACK CAT.
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU TWO.
YOU PUTTING "THE HAMMERHEAD" TO HER?
BUSTER, I KNOW YOU THINK YOU'RE THE HOTNESS, BUT I'VE SURVIVED EVERYTHING.
THE WILSON FISK ROLLER-COASTER, THE OWL, NEFARIA, SILVERMANE...
...I SURVIVED IT BECAUSE PUNKS LIKE YOU CAN'T SEE FIVE FEET PAST THEIR--
BAM

HE WAS ACTUALLY BRAGGING THAT ALL HE DID *ALL THESE YEARS* IS *SURVIVE.*
A GUY LIKE THAT WITH A HEAD LIKE *THAT* AND HE AIN'T *THE KINGPIN OF THE ENTIRE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES?*
KEEP IT.
OH, THANKS.
SO NOW WHAT?

WELL, FIRST OF ALL, NICE JOB.
GARY, RIGHT?
YEAH.
NICE JOB. NICE DRAMATIC TIMING.
LISTEN, GARY HERE WILL TELL YOU, I PAY BETTER, THE BENEFITS ARE CRAZY--
CRAZY!
--AND, BRAG I WILL, I THINK YOU'D ALL LIKE THE FEELING OF WORKING FOR A WINNER FOR A CHANGE.
I WILL LEARN ALL YOUR NAMES IN GOOD TIME BUT, MEANWHILE, LET'S TRY TO GET THIS PLACE UP AND--
OH, HEY! WHERE'D THE LADY GO? THE ONE I CAME IN WITH?
OH, SHE RAN AWAY.
I HIRED HER TO SHOW ME--(OH, THAT'S ANNOYING.)
HEY, ANYONE HERE LOYAL TO BLACK CAT WHOM MONEY CAN'T BUY...
...NOW'S THE TIME TO SPEAK UP.
ACTUALLY, I HAVE TO TELL YOU--FELICIA, SHE SAVED MY BROTHER'S LIFE.
SHE REALLY DID.
I'D BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T MENTION IT.
HOW MUCH IS SHE PAYING YOU NOW?
10 PLUS TIPS.
IT'S DOUBLED.
WELL, I GUESS @$@# HER, THEN.
GOD BLESS AMERICA.
$@#$ THAT, TOO!

RRGGH...
YOU LOOK WELL.
I WORK OUT.
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT *DIAMONDBACK?*


THE HELL?
LET IT HAPPEN.
I AM.
(IT'S TURNING ME ON.)
OKAY...
STAY SAFE, ELEKTRA.
DO YOU REMEMBER CARRIE ANN WILCOX?
SHE WAS IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW WITH YOU IN SECOND YEAR.
CARRIE-- OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I BUMPED INTO HER.
HOW IS SHE?
DEAD.
SEX TRAFFICKING.
OH.
YOU NEVER KNOW ABOUT SOME PEOPLE.
WHAT THE ACTUAL @#$@?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN ASK HER ABOUT BREAKING INTO HEROES FOR HIRE!
WHY DID YOU ASK HER ABOUT DIAMONDBACK?
AND WHAT THE ACTUAL @#$@?

NOT ALL COMMUNICATION IS VERBAL.
WE'RE NINJA-TRAINED. DANNY UNDERSTANDS.
SHE WAS HIRED TO LOOK INTO WHO ATTACKED YOU.
SHE DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOUR OFFICE. THAT'S WHY NOTHING SEEMED TO BE MISSING.
SHE'S WORKING THE SAME BEAT AS US BUT FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE. FOR WHOM, I DO NOT KNOW, WHICH MEANS SHE CAN'T SAY.
IT COULD BE ANYONE.
SO, I ASKED ABOUT DIAMONDBACK BECAUSE--SHE'S AFTER HIM TOO.
OKAY, LUKE...
YEAH, DUDE, WHO ARE YOU?
WHO AM I?
DUDE, WE'RE OUT HERE ON THE STREETS FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES, WE GOT DIAMONDBACK KNOCKING ON OUR FRONT DOOR, AND NOW WE GOT ASSASSINS BREAKING INTO OUR OFFICE...
AND YOU'RE GIVING THEM A WINK AND LETTING THEM GO!
YOU CAN SEE THEIR POINT.
WE'RE TAKING A LOT OF THINGS YOU SAY AT FACE VALUE WHEN--
WE HAVE A KID.
AND YOU WON'T EVEN SHOW US YOUR FACE.
I MEAN, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YA--
--YA EITHER TELL US WHO YOU ARE OR YOU'RE OUT OF THE DEFENDERS...

IS MINE NICER THAN SPIDER-MAN'S?
YOU CAN BE HONEST WITH ME.

BAM BAM BAM
OOF!
THAT BAD, HUH?

COME ON, FRANKIE, RELAX.
DON'T DO IT.
WHEN YOU WANT TO GO TO IT!
I HATE YOU.

MWAH!
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE!
COME HERE, BIG BOY!

TOLDJA!

SPOK
IDIOT!

NOW THEY'RE HERE!
OOOOOH...
I GET THE ONE DRESSED AS THE DEVIL.

"COME ON, ADMIT IT..."

THE DEFENDERS

...FOR A SECOND THERE, YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T EVEN GOING TO BE IN THE ISSUE.

YOU THOUGHT IT WAS, LIKE, ONE OF THOSE BAIT-AND-SWITCH THINGS.

OR, *SURPRISE!* IT WAS ONLY THE RECAP.

BUT SEE? EVERYTHING IS FINE.

ALL THAT MILLENNIAL AGITATION ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU. YOU HAVE TO LET THINGS HAPPEN.

WHAT?

NEXT ISSUE TEASER?

OH, UH, I'M PRETTY SURE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO ME.

HMM? WHAT DOES THE PUNISHER TASTE LIKE?

CATALINA.

I WAS SURPRISED, TOO.

BUT HEY, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT ISSUE WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE GRITTY STREETS OF MARVEL.

I READ AHEAD.

BLACK CAT RISES!

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